

REMARKS

The Final Office Action of July 20, 2004, and the Advisory Action dated October 8, 2004, have been received and reviewed.

Claims 1-28 are currently pending and under consideration in the above-referenced application, each standing rejected.

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for reciting subject matter which the Office alleges to be indefinite.

Specifically, the Office has rejected claims 1 and 20 for reciting “causing a chemical reaction” and “depositing an interconnect material . . . in situ with causing the chemical reaction.” It has been asserted that both of these acts would be part of the same chemical reaction.

It was previously explained that one of ordinary skill in the art would readily understand what is meant by “causing a chemical reaction . . . in situ with” the act of “depositing an interconnect material” The phrase “in situ” means “[i]n the original position.” American Heritage College Dictionary, Third Ed. (1997). As used in independent claims 1 and 20, this means that the separate acts of “causing a chemical reaction” and “depositing an interconnect material” are separate acts that are conducted on a substrate as it remains in the same position, or reaction chamber.

In the Advisory Action, it has been asserted that the language of the claims does not necessarily requires that these acts occur separately. Accordingly, it is proposed that claims 1 and 20 be amended to recite that the act of “depositing an interconnect material” occur “after” the act of “causing a chemical reaction,” clarifying that at least portions of these acts occur at different times.

It is respectfully submitted that neither of these amendments changes the scope of either independent claim 1 or independent claim 20, as it was already apparent from the language of these claims that, since the interconnect material is deposited onto the contact material, that the at

least a portion of the act of “depositing” was effected after the act of “causing a chemical reaction to form the contact material.”

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 20 comply with the definiteness requirement of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejections of independent claims 1 and 20 is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-28 were previously rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The remarks that accompany the Advisory Action indicate that these rejections have been withdrawn. Withdrawal of these rejections is noted with appreciation.

Entry of Amendments

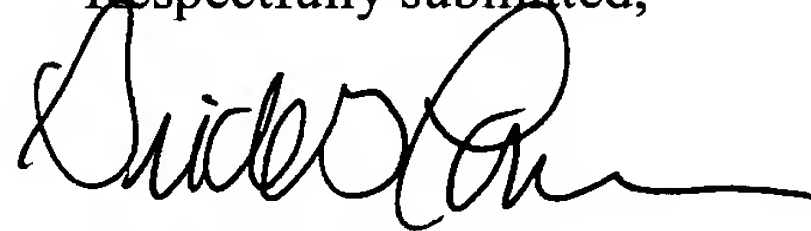
It is respectfully requested that the proposed claim amendments be entered. The proposed amendments do not introduce new matter into the application, nor would they require an additional search. Moreover, by addressing the only remaining rejection, entry of the proposed amendments would eliminate all of the issues that remain for purposes of appeal.

In the event that a decision is made not to enter the proposed claim amendments, entry thereof upon the filing of a Notice of Appeal in the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1-28 is allowable. An early notice of the allowability of each of these claims is respectfully solicited, as is an indication that the above-referenced application has been passed for issuance. If any issues preventing allowance of the above-referenced application remain which might be resolved by way of a telephone conference, the Office is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brick G. Power", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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